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**NUCC Announces Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set Version 2.1 Available Electronically For Use With HIPAA Transactions:**

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The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) and Washington Publishing Company (WPC) announced today the official release of the updated Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set (Version 2.1) and the establishment of a Web-based system for accessing and requesting codes for the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set.

The Provider Taxonomy Code Set is an external non-medical data code set designed for use in an electronic environment, specifically within the American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee Insurance Subcommittee (ANSI ASC X12N) health care transactions. This includes the transactions mandated under HIPAA.

In the absence of an all-encompassing Provider Classification System, both X12N and the National Provider System Workgroup from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) commenced work on identifying and coding an external provider table that would be able to codify provider type and provider area of specialization for all medical related providers. CMS' intent was to provide a single coding structure to support work on the National Provider System, while X12N needed a single common table for trading partner use. The two projects worked independently to some extent until April 1996 when the lists were coordinated and a single taxonomy was proposed. A workgroup was charged with resolving differences in the two proposed taxonomies. Their work resulted in a single taxonomy code set that both CMS and members of X12N found meaningful, easy to use, and functional for electronic transactions.

In 2001, ANSI ASC X12N asked the NUCC to become the official maintainer of the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set. Since then, the NUCC began working on updating the code set and developing a user-friendly mechanism to submit change requests. The NUCC has a formal operating protocol, and its membership includes representation from key provider and payer organizations as well as state and federal agencies, standard development organizations and the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC). The NUCC has also been working with the National Medicaid EDI HIPAA (NMEH) Work Group. Representatives from NMEH regularly participate in the NUCC's Provider Taxonomy meetings.

The NUCC developed procedures for processing all new and outstanding taxonomy change requests that had accumulated since 1998 and has worked diligently at updating the taxonomy list and definitions of the codes. The new Web site and updated Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set (Version 2.1) can be accessed on the Web or downloaded as a PDF free-of-charge at [www.wpc-edi.com/codes](http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes). In addition, an electronic representation of the list in an X12 format is available on a paid subscription basis.

The NUCC also developed guidelines for change requests, which are posted on the Web site. A web-based system for submitting those requests to the NUCC has been developed. Code requests are reviewed by the NUCC on a regular basis and all changes to the code set will be published biannually in January and July with effective dates of April and October respectively. For more information regarding the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code Set go to: [www.wpc-edi.com/codes](http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes)

